

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 05478 030646Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 ACDA-12 IO-13 /103 W
-----083291 030648Z /21

P 030641Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6703
INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: JA, KS, KN YU
SUBJECT: FURTHER JAPANESE PRESS REPORTING ON YUGOSLAV
TRIPARTITE KOREA INITIATIVE

REF: TOKYO 6673

1. SANKEI EVENING APRIL 1 FRONT-PAGED NEW STORY ON
YUGOSLAV INITIATIVE FOR TRIPARTITE KOREAN TALKS WITH
WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT YOICHI KITAZUME BYLINE. KITAZUME
REPORTED THAT, ACCORDING TO 'INFORMED DIPLOMATIC SOURCE,'
IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING TITO-CARTER MEETING IN WASHINGTON
IN MID-MARCH, GOY HAD DISPATCHED SPECIAL ENVOY TO
PYONGYANG TO RELAY US THOUGHTS ON POSSIBLE IMPROVEMENT OF
RELATIONS THROUGH TRIPARTITE TALKS BETWEEN US, DPRK AND
ROK. KITAZUME S SOURCE CHARACTERIZED USG'S REPORTED
DESIRE TO SEEK CONTACT WITH DPRK THROUGH YUGOSLAVS AS
EXTREMELY POSITIVE. SANKEI SAID THAT ALTHOUGH STATE
DEPARTMENT AND YUGOSLAV EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON HAD
ESSENTIALLY OFFERED "NO COMMENT", NEITHER HAD THEY
FLATLY DENIED STORY.

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2. KITAZUME WENT ON TO QUOTE OTHER "INFORMED SPECULATION"
THAT ENVIRONMENT FOR US-DPRK CONTACT WAS IMPROVING
BECAUSE OF USG'S CONCERN OVER POSSIBLE DPRK AGGRESSIVE
ACTIONS DURING COURSE OF TROOP WITHDRAWAL, PARTICULARLY
SHOULD U.S. CONGRESS CUT MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO ROK
BECAUSE OF PARK TONG-SUN SCANDALS. FOR THEIR PART, NORTH
KOREANS WERE INTERESTED IN STRENGTHENING ECONOMIC

RELATIONS WITH WEST AND IMPROVING INTERNATIONAL POSITION
THROUGH DIALOGUE WITH US.

3. KITAZUME REPORTED THAT ALTHOUGH USG HAD BRIEFED SOUTH
KOREANS ON ALL DETAILS OF YUGOSLAV INITIATIVE THROUGH
ROK EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON, SOUTH KOREAN GOVERNMENT WAS
THUR FAR EXTREMELY GUARDED IN ITS RESPONSE. ROK HAD
CONVEYED ITS OPPOSITION TO TRIPARTITE TALKS THROUGH LETTER
TO STATE DEPARTMENT AND IN TURN, HAD RECEIVED
DEPARTMENT'S ASSURANCE THAT "THE ROK'S VIEWS WILL BE
FULLY RESPECTED, AND DEPENDING ON THE CIRCUMSTANCES, WE
WILL RECONSIDER HOW TO ADVANCE TALKS WITH NORTH KOREA."
MANSFIELD

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, FOREIGN RELATIONS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978TOKYO05478
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780143-0407
Format: TEL
From: TOKYO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780497/aaaadfeu.tel
Line Count: 75
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 77c509b7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 TOKYO 6673
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3088685
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FURTHER JAPANESE PRESS REPORTING ON YUGOSLAV TRIPARTITE KOREA INITIATIVE
TAGS: PEPR, SOPN, JA, KS, KN, YO, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/77c509b7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014